

Harford County Courthouse  
South Main Street  
Bel Air  
Public

This handsome neo-classical building, the second on the site, is the reason for Bel Air's existence. A commercial and administrative center, Bel Air has at all times revolved around its Courthouse. It is also the first building in Town to have an architect's name associated with it. When the first courthouse burned in 1858, J. Crawford Neilson of the Baltimore firm of Niernsee and Crawford, was hired as a consultant. Frank Barr, a Bel Air Civil Engineer, supervised the construction of the Italianate building that is the center portion of the present structure. In 1904 the present front and rear blocks were added to the design of J. A. Dempwolf of York, Pennsylvania. His chaste neo-classical design was joined with remarkable sensitivity to the original structure to form a pleasing and coherent whole. The main courtroom on the second floor is the most notable public space in town.

Also noteworthy are the many portraits of Harford County notables which hang in the building. The first portrait was of Edwin Booth (1833-1893), the famous Shakesperian actor who was born in Harford County. He gave an early (1850) performance in the courtroom of the previous building, an event recalled in a 1936 mural in Bel Air's Post Office. The courthouse's own mural in the landing of the main staircase is by Marion Butler Ewald. Painted in 1934, it depicts the Signing of the Bush Declaration on the eve of the American Revolution. In the west hall on the second floor is a plaque to Harford Countians who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-218  
1302183501

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Harford County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC

—PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED (County)

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Harford County contact:

Building Inspector

Thomas Dick

Telephone #: 838-6000

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

NA-33

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harford County Courthouse occupies a block on the west side of Main Street between Courtland and Office Streets in the Town of Bel Air,<sup>1</sup> Md. The present building is the second on the site. An artist's sketch shows this building to have been a two-story brick late colonial building with balanced single story dependencies. The courtroom was on the ground floor with other offices on the second floor. Access to the second story was by means of an outside staircase to a landing on top of the ground floor entrance porch. The north dependency housed the clerk's office, while the Register of Wills had his office in the south dependency. This is the building that burned in 1858.

The 1858 Courthouse, Italianate in style, was rectangular with three bays in the facade and six bays along the side elevations. An old photograph in the possession of Mr. Chilcoat, the Clerk of Court, shows the arched door opening in the central bay topped by a brick entablature supporting a Gothic Palladian window. A brick parapet with small brick gable with a bull's eye window in the center is centered over the middle bay and hides the roof lines. The fenestration is arched, 6/6 in the first story and 9/9 in the second. A wooden cupola with bell crowns the roof.

The present structure is an I-shaped two-story brick building in common bond having a hipped roof over the two crossbars of the I and a gable roof over the long central block. A wooden cupola, with arches and pairs of Tuscan columns supporting a small dome, tops the ridge of the central block. According to James Wollon, Jr., it closely resembles an example published by William Chambers in his Treatise on the Decorative Parts of Civil Architecture (London, 1791). The fire bell mounted in front of the Main Street entrance formerly hung in the cupola. The five bay east, or Main Street, elevation has its first story brick-work laid in imitation of stone rustication with brick quoins framing both the ends of the block and the slightly projecting central bay. The central bay houses the entrance and a round arched composite window and is capped by a brick gable with a lunette. The brownstone entry is framed by Tuscan pilasters supporting an entablature. Two tall oak doors with bevelled glass panels in the top half open inward and are topped by a transom. Centered above the entry is a round arched double-hung window, 9/12, framed in 19 fixed panes. The windows in the flanking bays are flat arched 9/9, with decorative wrought iron bars in the first story, and round arched 16/16 in the second. Water table, string course and cornice of brick complete the decorations.

The west, or Wall Street, elevation is similar in spirit to the east elevation but it differs in detail. The central bay does not project, and the window in the center bay in the second story matches the other windows, round arched double-hung 16/16, as in the flanking bays of the east elevation. Most radically different is the window treatment in the gable over the central bay: a palladian window, possibly to add architectural interest to the flat elevation.

<sup>1</sup>(C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, Baltimore - 1967, p.69)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Contractor **E & A Reynold**

SPECIFIC DATES **1858; 1904**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **J. Crawford Neilson 1858**  
**Frank Barr**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harford County Courthouse is the most important building in Bel Air. It is the reason for the Town's existence and the reason for its continued prosperity. The present building, the second on the site, has the simple dignity of the best of Harford architecture and is a good example of the restrained taste in design preferred by both Town and County. The chaste 1904 neo-classical facade represents Harford County's choice from among the revival styles then current to represent the ideal of Justice made concrete in the county legal center.

The first courthouse, built between 1788 and 1791, shows the lack of specialization of eighteenth century American architecture. According to an artist's rendering of the building, it was a two story brick structure with balanced single story dependencies. The only feature to distinguish it from a plantation house of the same period was the entry porch with its staircase rising outside parallel to the front elevation and terminating in a porch supported at the second story level by two pillars. The north wing was the Clerk's office, while the south wing held the Register of Wills. The courtroom was on the ground floor of the main block. The second story was occupied by various offices and jury rooms.

The courtroom was the largest room in Town, and many meetings were held there. Before the first Masonic Lodge was built in 1833, there was no church in Town. The itinerant ministers who served Bel Air preached in the courtroom. The Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized there in 1842. Edwin Booth made his debut as an actor there in 1850, an occasion commemorated by the WPA mural in the Post Office. Of course many political meetings were also held in the courtroom.

On February 19, 1858, the courthouse was destroyed by a fire that may have started in the stove in the Clerk's office, although A. Lingan Jarrett, the Clerk, vigorously denied the possibility. The main building was entirely destroyed and the wings were severely damaged. While the land records could be reproduced, the records of the County Commissioners were lost. Since the state legislature was sitting at the time, immediate plans were made to rebuild. The legislature appointed a committee consisting of Stevenson Archer, Henry S. Harlan, James McCormick, William H. Dallam and A. Lingan Jarrett to consider plans. In June the Harford County National American

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

James Thomas Wollon, Jr., "Harford County Courthouse, "Harford Historical Bulletin, XII (Spring 1978), 58.

C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage. Baltimore, 1967.

Newspapers: The Southern Aegis; The Harford Democrat, The Harford National American.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This property occupies parcel 830 in the Town of Bel Air, 100' (Main Street) x 200' (Office Street)

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew

23 October 1978

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

The north and south elevations testify to the building's history. The central block, being the remaining visible part of the 1858 Courthouse, has different fenestration and decoration, but the end blocks added in 1904 join gracefully to the older style, the 1904 neo-classical work so restrained that it lives quite happily with the 1858 Italianate, also restrained. The end blocks were not simply added to the front and rear of the older building, but wrapped around it, so that the old building lost a bay on each end of the side elevations, leaving the present four bays. The windows are double-hung, round arched, 6/6 and barred in the first story, 9/9 in the second story. Brick water course, string course and cornice give horizontal movement to the elevation, and a recessed brick panel is centered under each window. The end blocks, three bays wide, project out one bay from the plane of the central elevation and have the quoins, rustication, fenestration, water table, string course and cornice described for the east and west elevations. The dentil band of the cornice on the front and rear blocks matches exactly that on the old central block tying these two different designs together.

Entering the building from Main Street one sees a long marble floored corridor. To the right is a room with real estate plats and xerox machines. To the left is the first room of land and other county records. These rooms have two windows and are two-thirds of the 1904 addition. Moving back along the right side of the corridor, one finds the 1858 staircase, open string, open well, and double-run, with thick, pleasant balusters and newels. Tucked under the stair landing is the small marriage room. Next along the right hand side of the hall are the room with the most recent land records, men's and ladies' restrooms and the civil court office. Along the left hand side of the hall behind the main office are two rooms with the land records, the criminal court office, and the back staircase. Behind the staircase are the offices of the Chief Deputy and the Clerk of Court. These two offices, the staircase and the civil court office across the hall are in the rear 1904 addition. This three-run, open-string staircase has square panelled newels, turned balusters and simple brackets.

In the landing of the front (1858) stairway is a 1934 W.P.A. mural on the north wall. This painting, by Marion Butler Ewald, depicts the Signing of the Bush Declaration on the eve of the American Revolution. The second story contains two courtrooms, judges' suites, a jury room, and offices for law clerks, court reporters, and bailiffs.

Courtroom Number One is perhaps the most distinguished room in any building in Town. It is relatively untouched since it was built in 1858, although its furniture was refinished in 1933. Occupying the entire central block in the second story, the courtroom, while square, is arranged as an amphitheater, the stepped spectators seats, like church pews, curving to fill the east end of the room. The raised judge's bench is against the west wall, with the witness box and court reporter's table to the side and front. The jury box, with modern chairs, ranges along the west end of the north wall, while the sheriff's desk is in the middle of the south wall. A large oval counsels' table is below the first rank of spectators' benches squarely across from the judge's bench. This table, the oldest piece of furniture in the building, was saved from the flames of the first courthouse. The dark wood of the furniture, the woodwork and the vestibule in the east end contrast with the white walls. The paintings of Harford notables ranged along the courtroom walls add to the somber and lofty spirit

of the room. Other paintings hang in the corridors on the second floor, and there is a memorial tablet to Harford County men who served in the Confederate Army in the Civil War on the wall near the west stairway.

An enclosed staircase like the 1904 west staircase leads to the attic over the west 1904 block. This room was occasionally used for jury deliberation in the old days. The wrap-around of the 1904 addition can be seen quite clearly in the attic. Access to the cupola is from this level.

It is unusual that such a simple, attractive building, with its chaste Italianate-cum-Classical design, should have been so little remodeled and cut up over a hundred or more years.

announced the committee's decision. Architect J. Crawford Neilson, of the Baltimore firm of Niernsee and Crawford, was described as the "consulting architect". Frank Barr, a Bel Air Civil Engineer and surveyor, was "superintendent architect". The contract went to E. and A. Reynold, of Port Deposit, who promised to finish the new building by July 1, 1859, at a cost of \$14,600. Meanwhile the court sat across the yard in the church portion of the Masonic Lodge.

The new courthouse became the same focus of Town life the old building had been. Meetings and rallies were once again held there, and the life of the county flowed through its doors.

Town and county were subdued during the Civil War as families and friends were split in their loyalties. Union troops clattered through Town on search and seize missions. The battle of Gettysburg flamed close to home, and local doctors went to help with the wounded. Bel Air lost a hotelkeeper who had gone south to fight for the Confederacy and had returned in Confederate gray to die on the gentle Pennsylvania hills. And through it all the Courthouse remained the center of life. Both sides were grateful when the awful conflict ended, and the courthouse was illuminated in prayerful celebration. Too soon it was draped in black in mourning for the assassination of President Lincoln at the hands of John Wilkes Booth, a Harford County man.

Over the years, various touches were added to the building. In 1869 Samuel Reynolds, of Cecil County, remodeled the roof to try to stop a persistent leak. In 1872, Nathan Dean, a local cabinetmaker and undertaker, added the panelled vestibule to the big courtroom. In 1876-77 a new iron fence with stone posts replaced the rotting wooden fence around the courthouse lot. It took two years because Jacob La Rue defaulted on his contract to build the stone piers in 1876. Mr. Touchstone completed the work the following year, and Patrick Howard graded the yard. In 1883, Taylor Cole of Bel Air gave the building a wash of "brick Color".

In 1890, the portrait of a distinguished Harford County citizen, Edwin Booth (1833-1893), America's pre-eminent Shakespearean actor, was hung in the courthouse. The idea originated with E. M. Allen and though Booth was aging and ill, he sat for the portrait and donated it to the county. To date fifty-four portraits hang in the courthouse reminding present day citizens of the contributions of their ancestors to county, state and nation. The portrait of the first Harford County woman took its place in 1978. Mary Risteau, the first woman elected to the state legislature, was honored for her service to Maryland.

By the end of the nineteenth century, it was clear that the courthouse had become too small. In 1904, Governor Warfield signed a bill to add to the building, and appointed a commission to consider plans. The bill allowed the County to borrow \$25,000 for the costs. The commission was led by George L. Van Bibber and included A. Henry Strasbaugh, Stevenson A. Williams, Hugh A. Jones, and William S. Forwood, Jr. Unfortunately just as the commission began its search, a large part of Baltimore burned, leaving its architects and contractors with more work than they could handle. The commissioners finally accepted the neo-classical design of J. A. Dempwolf of York, Pennsylvania. The contract was awarded to C. Coleman Smith of Stafford. The addition cost approximately \$100,000. Dempwolf joined his neo-classical design to the existing Italianate design with remarkable sensitivity so that the present building represents a satisfying and coherent whole.



Present plans call for another addition to the west elevation of the building. A modern design by the Baltimore firm of Meyer, Ayers, Saint, Stewart, Inc. will be integrated with the present building. The west elevation will be obscured by the join. The new section will require the demolition of the Masonic Lodge and the Harford National Bank and the closing of Wall Street. When completed in the early 1980's the building's west elevation will front on Bond Street.

acres at the place selected and, in the meantime, to rent buildings for the courthouse and prison.

Scott's Old Fields, or Belle Air, as it was then called, won the election but this did not settle the matter, for we find that a second Act was passed on January 20, 1787, authorizing another election to determine whether the courthouse should be built at Scott's Old Fields or Havre de Grace. By this Act, a Board of Commissioners consisting of John Archer, Benedict Edward Hall, William Smith, John Taylor, and Jesse Jarrett were appointed to arrange for the election.

Reasons for the passage of this Act are given in its preamble:—"Whereas sundry inhabitants of Harford County have petitioned this General Assembly for a law to remove the seat of justice from Bel Air to Havre de Grace, and sundry other persons have demonstrated against the said petition and prayed that the seat of justice therein should continue at the place already established by law; whereas it appears to this General Assembly that the said dispute should be finally determined by an election of the people."

The Act prohibited the commissioners from receiving votes for any of the other sites named in the first Act, and only Havre de Grace and Bel Air were to be in the contest. The election was held at Bel Air and resulted in a victory for those preferring the Bel Air site, where the court was already sitting.

After the election under the first Act, the justices proceeded to purchase a tract at Scott's Old Fields, and on April 27, 1782, Aquila Scott of James, conveyed by deed two and five-eighths acres to Harford County for the courthouse and prison.<sup>12</sup> The lot was surveyed by Daniel Scott and included the land on which the Masonic Temple, courthouse, office building, and jail now stand. The purchase price as stated in the records was twenty-two pounds, six shillings, and three pence, about \$110 in our money.

Even though the justices were authorized by the Act of 1782 to build a courthouse and jail, the matter was delayed for several years. This may have been due to lack of funds or more likely because of the controversy over the permanent site, which was not settled until the election of 1787. However, the justices were authorized to rent quarters for holding court and a stone building on the northwest corner of the Baltimore Pike and Main Street was used for some time for this purpose.

The courthouse was under construction in 1788, and by an Act of General Assembly of that year the justices were authorized "to assess the sum of two shillings, six pence on every hundred pounds worth of property,

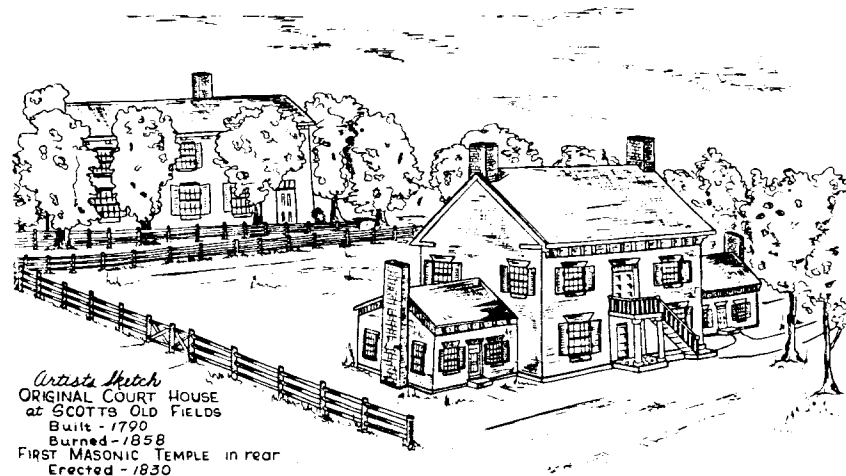
<sup>12</sup> Harford County Land Records, Liber J L.G., No. H, page 103.

to complete the public buildings of said county and other purposes." By the Act of 1790, a further tax of 500 pounds, current money, was collected for the completion of public buildings.

We have no definite record of the cost of the courthouse, but, in addition to the amounts above levied, the receipts from 154,000 pounds of tobacco required of Baltimore County, in Section VII of the Act of Division of the two counties, was also used for building purposes.

The time of the building of the jail and stone sheriff's dwelling, which was torn down in 1964 to make way for the new office building, is not definitely known but is believed to be about 1791.

The reason for the delay in building the courthouse is not clear, but every record shows that it was begun in 1788 and the first term of court was not held there until March of 1791. In his history, Judge Preston gives the following description of this first Bel Air courthouse: "The courthouse was built of brick and occupied the same position as the present building. It



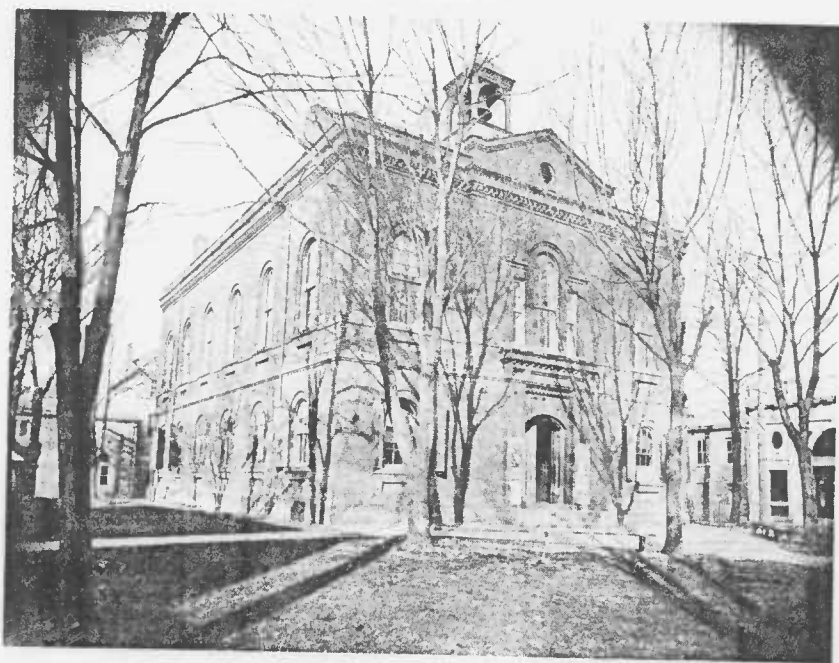
had wings to the north and south. The wing on the north was used for the clerk's office, and that on the south for the Register of Wills. The courtroom was downstairs with floor made of bricks. Within the rail where the lawyers and jury sat, the floor was raised and the bench or judge's seat was high above like a pulpit. There were two immense open fireplaces in which

hickory, of cord wood lengths, was burned. The other offices were on the second floor, the steps to which went up from the outside. The steps had no covering and the Grand and Petit Juries had to pass outdoors in going from the courtroom to the jury room. There was a landing at the head of the steps, and from this landing it was customary for political speakers to address their audiences."

It was in the courtroom of this courthouse that the famous Edwin Booth made his first appearance as a Shakespearean actor in 1850.

After use for approximately sixty years, on February 19, 1858, the courthouse was destroyed by fire. The main building was entirely consumed, and much damage was done to the wings. Though many valuable books and papers were saved, the records of the County Commissioners were lost.

The Legislature was in session at the time and action was immediately taken to erect a new courthouse. A committee consisting of Stevenson Archer, Henry S. Harlan, James McCormick, William H. Dallam, and A. Lingan Jarrett, clerk of the court, was appointed to prepare plans for a new building and superintend its construction.



*Courtesy of Garland R. Greer*

**HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
As it appeared when erected in 1858.

This building differed from the old by having the offices on the first floor and courtroom on the second floor, and is the main part of our present courthouse. To the great credit of the commission, the sum of \$20,000, raised by selling bonds, was more than sufficient for its completion.

After fifty years, the work of the court and the business of all county offices had so increased that it was found necessary to make additions, and the present wings, both back and front, were added in 1904. The cost was approximately \$100,000 and the builder was C. Coleman Smith, of Stafford.

The rostrum, lawyers' table, and benches in this courthouse are of beautiful black walnut. After some years of use, all received several coats of varnish stain, thus destroying their beauty. In 1933, under direction of the late Major Robert H. Archer, funds were obtained from the Government to use workers under Civil Works Administration to remove the old stain and the furniture was restored to its rich, mellow finish. In 1963, when a second judge was appointed for Harford County, the courthouse was remodeled so as to provide a second small courtroom and appropriate offices.

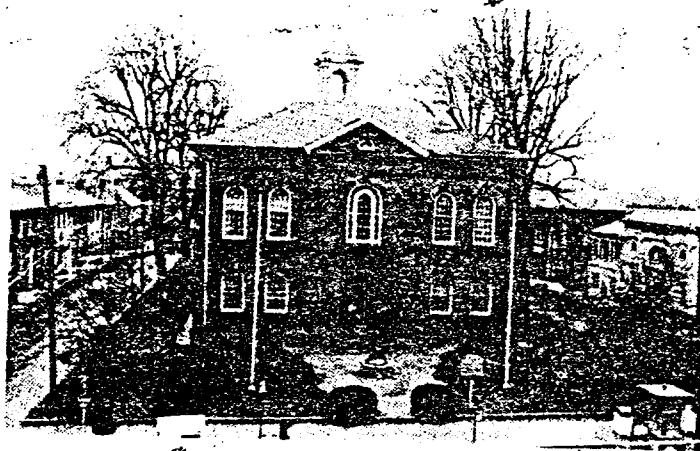
The need for office space has increased so rapidly in recent years that it was necessary to purchase the building at the corner of Courtland and Bond Streets in 1925, and in 1950 the county bought the office building erected a few years before by the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

In 1964 the stone sheriff's residence, erected about 1791, was torn down and a new office building was constructed on the site. The dedication took place on July 26, 1964, with Mr. Thomas Hatem presiding, and Senator William S. James and County Commissioners Abe Davis, D. Franklin McGinnis, and John S. O'Neill participating in the program. The dedicatory address was made by C. Milton Wright, retired Superintendent of Schools.

The Town of Bel Air, which became the county seat in 1782 after considerable controversy over its location, has continued to grow, and its central location makes it easily accessible to the greatly increased population. A more comprehensive history of the present county seat is found in Chapter 19.

HA-218

# Harford County Court House



by James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A.

A county court house should be as significant to its county as a state capitol building is to its state and as the United States Capitol building is to this Nation. Various proposals concerning additions, replacements and supplementary buildings for the Harford County Court House make a brief architectural analysis of the existing building a timely subject, hopefully awakening public interest in this very important structure. The Harford County Court House is especially interesting, architecturally, because of its two periods of construction which, remarkably, blend or coincide with each other in spite of their widely differing stylistic backgrounds and nearly half a century difference in age.

The original portion, built in 1859, consists primarily of the Court Room and the spaces beneath it. Four windows in each storey of this structure are visible on either side, externally. Stylistically this portion of the structure belongs to the Italianate period, a style which flourished in the middle decades of the nineteenth century, marked by arched windows, low hipped roofs and matched, finely-jointed brickwork with highly-ornamental corbeling. It was considered a reinterpretation of Italian Renaissance villa or rural architecture. Italy represented the artistic and cultural center of the world and the ideal climate; hence an Italianate revival was a popular style among the many styles of antiquity which were revived in the last century.

In the original structure of 1859, the central bay of the principal or east front projected slightly and it contained the main entrance. Narrow, tall rectangular windows flanked the arched window in this bay, recalling the tripartite Palladian or Venetian window popular in 18th century English and colonial American architecture, surviving through and equally appropriate in a mid-nineteenth century interpretation of Italian architecture. The central bay was crowned by a low pediment in the roof, probably of brick. Flanking bays of the front facade duplicated the bays of the north and south sides, still largely visible.

The four chimneys—two on either side—which probably allowed stoves in each room are still visible within the present structure.

The rear or west facade was much simpler than the east facade, a continuation of the sides without the prominent central feature.

In 1905 wings were built across the east and west fronts of the 1859 structure, giving the enlarged structure the shape of the letter 'H'. While the 1905 wings may appear to be mere extensions of the 1859 structure, they are of the Colonial Revival style. It was a style which allowed many materials, proportions, details and forms of the original to be restated, thus blending the new with the old without copying it.

The Colonial Revival style had its origins in the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876 when the designs of colonial America received new attention; the earlier styles were revived in furniture and architecture, a revival which continues to this day. Earlier examples of the revival, such as the wings of the Court House, interpreted colonial forms very liberally, very freshly and imaginatively, interpretations which were not necessarily academically correct. The restoration of colonial Williamsburg in the 1920s and 1930s created a general awareness of academically-correct details. Brick cornices were unknown in colonial America and common bond brickwork never would have been used on a building of importance. The arched window within a larger arched window, as exists above the front door, is not exactly an eighteenth century detail, yet it recalls the Palladian or Venetian window motif. The little Palladian or Venetian window in the west gable is an eighteenth century form but its sash proportions and muntin arrangements represent the newer interpretations of those earlier forms. Radiating muntins fill the arched window heads of the 1905 wings but this muntin form was not employed in the arched 1859 windows. The rusticated walls of the first storey—with regularly-recurring recessed courses of brick to suggest the joints in massive courses of cut stone—recall seventeenth and eighteenth century English design (itself a continuation and revival of sixteenth century Italian Renaissance design) and the brownstone door surround in the Tuscan order is not far removed from its eighteenth century ancestor in England or America although its proportions are heavier.

The slight projection of the center bay of the principal front recalls a similar projection on the original structure but the pediment above recalls our own American colonial style while the pediment of 1859 was distinctly Italianate.

The present cupola, with its arches and pairs of Tuscan columns supporting a small dome, is a detail copied quite correctly from an English Renaissance example, similar to one published by William Chambers in his *TREATISE ON THE DECORATIVE PARTS OF CIVIL ARCHITECTURE*, London, 1791; it dates from the 1905 additions and the earlier cupola was simpler.

The doors with their large pieces of beveled plate glass are characteristic of the 1905 period; pieces of glass this size were technologically impossible in the eighteenth century. The decorative wrought-iron grilles at the first storey windows belong to the 1905 period and in our own times, wrought-iron is a substance no longer manufactured due to the very high cost of fabricating it into decorative items such as these handsome grilles.

A careful examination of the existing structure reveals that the 1905 wings extend over (or "wrap around") the east and west bays of the 1859 structure. Examination of pre-1905 photographs shows the original building to have been six bays in

(Continued on Page 60)

# Addition To The Harford County Court House

The rambling nature of this specification, following no specific format, is typical of eighteenth and early nineteenth century specifications. It seems the writer included a term, a detail, a task as he thought of it, without first writing a draft, organizing it in a logical format and rewriting it as a finished document.

A few terms should be explained in contemporary language:

"rufcast"—stucco

"Sixteen lights of nine by eleven"—windows with eight panes in each of two sash, each-pane 9 inches by 11 inches

"Shetters covered with sheat Iron" and "the doare to be...covered in Like way"—wooden shutters and doors were covered with sheet iron to be somewhat fireproof for compatibility with stone walls and slate roofs

"fols flew"—false flue, or chimney flue within the thickness of the wall, not expressed internally or externally by a projection

"slate roof" and "brick cornish"—all exterior features designed to be fireproof, a minimum exterior exposure of combustible materials

"plastering with whitewashed"—whitewash was the standard interior finish for plaster

This manuscript was found among the Court Records by David L. Hill of the Bel Air American History Club, Inc. and of this Society.

The Commifisionors Harford County

Gentlemen

I will built the county-lot a Fire proof office thirty by twenty seven from out to out the story eight feet six Inches in the clear with the following metorials vis—

The wals to be of stone eighteen inches thick to be rufcast on the ought side—to have one Doore with stone frame cap and sill—with four windows of sixteen Lights of nine by eleven glaſs of first quality Baltimore Manufactory - with Doubled ſhetters covered with sheat Iron on the out ſide having ſtrong ſtraps and hooks to hang ſaid ſhutters with ſufficient faſtnings to ſaid ſhutters—the doare to be hung and covered in Like way with a good and ſtrong Lock the flore to be Laid with Brick the wall to have one fols flew to receive a stove pipe The ſealing or top of the ſame to be Lathed and plastered with a ſufficient coat or coats to be conſidered fire proof to have a ſlate roof properly put on with a brick corniſh the room to have two cats of plastering with whitewashed - to be countered & ſhelfed as the ſaid Commiſſioners may Think propper, (having uſe of all of the preſent Counters ſhelves and c) for the ſum of one thouſand Dollars one half when the Joists is put on and the ballance when ſaid work is finiſhed to be Inſpected by ſaid Commiſſioners or a majority of them. the work to be Complete in three months from the time of Laying the foundation the whole to have two coats of paint except counters and Shelves/—

/s/ John Donahoo

P S I am ready at any time to Contract the giving me notice

J.D.

Sept 20th 1830

## Review

J. Edmund Bull, *Revolutionary Harford, Part III. A Gentleman's Journal* (Bel Air, MD: Steppingstone Museum Association, 1977) 101 pages plus bibliography. \$3.50.

Here is an account of the War for Independence as observed by a resident of Harford County, Maryland, and recorded in his journal. It is a listing of events, some crucial, some not. Taken together they reveal a story of colonial Americans that is energetic, striving, eccentric, proper, accomplished, earthy, worldly, spiritual, respectful of tradition, and resentful against alleged usurpations by a mother country.

The entries begin with the date of "17 June 1716," when Parliament introduced the oaths of loyalty to the Crown and to the Church of England, which had the effect of disestablishing English Roman Catholics from high office. The last entry, dated 14 January 1784, notes the ratification by Congress assembled at Annapolis of the Treaty of Peace, officially ending hostilities between the colonies and Great Britain. Between these two dates is a thesaurus of information gleaned from contemporary documents which Bull found, searching through the Maryland archives in the Hall of Records and the Maryland Historical Society as well as materials which he scrupulously collected over the years.

The author did an amazing amount of work and recorded some 700 entries, all documented, according to the editors, Mary C. Wright and Mary R. Bristow, who carried on in the spirit and method of the late J.E. Bull so that this volume would become available to Harford Countians old and new.

It is notable that the number of entries are largest during the two years, 1776 and 1777 (over 130 each). (One may imagine a bell curve skewed to the right in terms of numbers of entries.) The events pertinent to Revolutionary Harford were noted, it is assumed, by the available data, though the "journal" is really a blend of major and minor occurrences throughout the colonies and not just within Harford County.

One may have wished that the entries could have been more truly reflective of the fictitious gentleman who produced the journal. It is not a diary; there are no "personal" notes. We learn little about the writer or his revolutionary viewpoint. There are some notorious omissions of dates. He does not specify the date or year for a segment of Baltimore County becoming distinct as Harford County (1773) Maryland. He does not mention the Harford Resolves of 11 June 1774, developed under the leadership of Aquila Hall. He does not list 22 March 1775 as the day of the Bush Declaration, one of the early colonial declarations of independence.

Overall, though, the gentleman left us a great deal of fascinating memorabilia: remarkable notings of events and persons, nationally or locally newsworthy: titillating tales about General William Howe, Frederick Lord Baltimore (Henry Harford's father), and Henry Treen's active wife Catherine. The pace of events quickens during the 1777's as Maryland men become militiamen. Harford County itself was invaded by the British, anticipating action years later in another war with the English.

Revolutionary Harford, Part III, must be read in conjunction with Part I (cultural history) and Part II (political history). As Mr. Bull himself noted in Part I, "This work is not intended to be a definitive history of the county. It is merely hoped that the reader's curiosity has been sufficiently aroused to undertake further study of the subject on his own. If this is done, in another quarter century a definitive history may be written."

J. Edmund Bull loved his American heritage and he loved his Harford county. He produced a labor of love which others will draw upon for pleasure, enlightenment, and stimulus. His name has already been added to the list of writers that include Scharf, Preston, and Wright.

Reviewed by John E. Brown, PhD  
Professor of History  
Harford Community College  
Bel Air, Maryland

of men now living or but recently deceased, yet the records of their ancestors incorporated therein do much to throw light upon days long past, and largely enhance the value of the work.

There are perhaps few of the residents of Bel Air who cherish a deeper affection for the place and its people than does the subject of this article. A busy man of affairs, he yet finds opportunity to keep in touch with every local measure and all village improvements. It is but natural that the place should be dear to him, for this was his birthplace. He represents the third generation of the family that has been identified with the history of Harford County, the first of the name to settle here having been his grandfather, Rev. John Allen, a native of Wexford, Ireland, a graduate of Trinity College, and from 1795 to 1815 rector of St. George's parish, which at that time embraced all of the county. He died in 1830. Concerning the remote history of the family little is known, except that, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, some of the name accompanied the Earl of Essex from Scotland to Ireland, which afterward remained their home. The homestead, three miles from Wexford, has remained in the family for three hundred and fifty years.

Dr. Richard N. Allen, father of our subject, was born in Harford County, and was a man of marked ability and talent. In young manhood he became an attorney, and would undoubtedly have risen to prominence in the profession had it not been for an unfortunate accident. While speaking in public upon one occasion, he burst a blood vessel, and the injury sustained debarred him from further practice at the bar. He then began the study of medicine, but died soon afterward, in 1835, when his children were small. Had he lived to mature years, he would doubtless have made a name and enviable reputation for himself. He had a brother, William H., who was an unusual man, both physically and mentally. In height he was six feet and six inches, and his mental attainments were as remarkable as his physical. At one time he held the office of territorial governor of Florida.

The mother of our subject was Adeline Miller,

a native of Harford County and the daughter of Edward Miller, who was born in England and became a woolen manufacturer of Maryland. She died within less than a year after the death of her husband, leaving three orphaned sons, of whom Edward M. is the eldest. Richard N., the second son, became a lawyer, and died in 1870. Henry L. is engaged in farming near Dallas, Tex. The subject of this article was reared in the home of a wealthy aunt, who sent him to Darlington Academy and would have given him a college education had he so desired. But the bent of his mind was in the direction of business affairs, rather than literary attainments, and he preferred to take charge of her estate, which he did very successfully. When twenty-three years of age he married Miss Sallie E. Wilson, half-sister of the late Judge John H. Price, with whom Mr. Allen studied law. Though often identified with professional, political and business affairs, he still makes his home on a farm in the northern part of the county.

In 1881 Mr. Allen was elected, upon the Republican ticket, to represent this district in the state senate, and during his term of office was chiefly remarkable for his aggressive disposition. He made a strong fight for low taxes and for the reduction of the fees of county officers, which naturally brought to him the enmity, or at least the determined opposition, of some politicians. Nevertheless, feeling that he was in the right, he persisted in his advocacy of reform movements, and now, though no longer in office, he still does all within his power to bring about the culmination desired. In 1890 he was admitted to the Bel Air bar, where he has since practiced, and prior to that time he had also done much legal business for his neighbors. He is a member of the Maryland Historical Society and strongly favors every means for perpetuating the memory of our early settlers and famous men. Fraternally a Mason, he is identified with Mt. Ararat Lodge of Bel Air. For more than forty years he was a vestryman of the Episcopal Church, but finally resigned from the position, in which he was succeeded by his son. He and his wife have four children. His son, E. M., Jr., is a prominent manufacturer and

N. R. FIELD  
1302123501

HA 218

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: <i>Harford County Courthouse</i>	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>This fills the block between N. Main Street, Office Street,</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Bel Air</i> <i>and W. Courtland St.</i>			
STATE: <i>Maryland</i>	CODE:	COUNTY: <i>Harford</i>	CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: <i>Harford County Commissioners</i>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>45 S. Main Street</i>			
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Bel Air</i>	STATE: <i>Md</i>	CODE: <i>21014</i>	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE</i>		40 S. MAIN ST.	
CITY OR TOWN: <i>BEL AIR</i>	STATE: <i>MARYLAND</i>	CODE:	
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:		Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
				Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Impassing two-story building, brick, with a cupola on top, Federal style, late. Five bays by three, plus a connecting link. Two bays long, and a third section 5 bays by three. Arched windows upstairs have fourteen lights over sixteen; downstairs ~~seventeen~~ plain windows twelve over twelve. Ceilings are high, halls wide, interior detail a restrained baroque cruices, chair-rail, doorways.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐

19th Century

Abar iginal

### Education

Political

Urban Planning

Prehistoric ☐

## Engineering

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Historic

Industry

lasaphy

0

## Agriculture

## Invention

Science

Examen n. 17

Art

## Landscape

## Sculpture

181

## Commerce

## Architecture

Sociol/Humon-

Astro

## Communications

## Literature

itarian ☐

1-1-1

### Conservation

## Military

Theater

A3c4Te

## Music

## Transportation

Courtrooms are upstairs, offices on the first floor.

# SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton Our Harford Heritage p 68-70

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0	'	"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0	'	"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0	'	"
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0	'	"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

JEAN S. EWING

ORGANIZATION

MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

50 STATE CIRCLE

CITY OR TOWN:

ANNAPOLIS

STATE

MARYLAND

CODE

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
21 STATE CIRCLE  
SHAW HOUSE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-218

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:  
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:  
Harford County Courthouse

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:  
"

PRESENT USE: Courthouse  
ORIGINAL USE: "

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:  
J. Crawford Neilson & Frank Barr

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:  
Messrs. E & A Reynold

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:  
Excellent (X) Good ( )  
Fair ( ) Poor: ( )

THEME: Architecture

STYLE: Classical revival

DATE BUILT:  
1858; additions 1904

COUNTY: Harford

TOWN: Bel Air

LOCATION: Courthouse Square, Main St.  
Bel Air

COMMON NAME:  
Harford County Courthouse

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Public Bldg.

OWNER: Harford County  
ADDRESS: Bel Air, Maryland

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:  
Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
Local ( ) State (X) National ( )

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone ( ) Brick (X) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
2. Wall Structure
  - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )
  - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick ( ) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
  - C. Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard ( ) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( )  
Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( )  
Brick Veneer ( ) Stone Veneer ( )  
Bonding Pattern: Common Other:
4. Roof Structure
  - A. Truss: Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal ( )  
Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches ( ) Towers ( ) Cupolas (X) Dormers ( ) Chimneys ( ) Sheds ( ) Ells ( )  
Wings ( ) Other:

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip (X) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( )  
Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( )  
Other:

Number of Stories: 2 + 1/2 in each end

Number of Bays: 5 x 10

Approximate Dimensions: 67' x 128

Entrance Location: Main Street

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat (X) Zoning ( ) Roads ( )  
Development ( ) Deterioration ( )  
Alteration ( ) Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive (X) Negative ( )  
Mixed ( ) Other:

## ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

I cross-bars added 1904 - wrap around - good match despite change in fenestration & c. lunette in front gable Palladian window in rear one.  
Mural on landing: 1934 Marion Butler Ewald

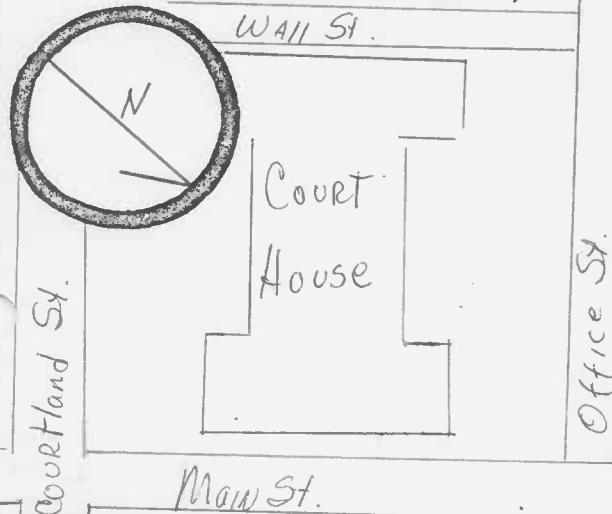
## RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Center of County Govt. since 1788 - second building on site.

## REFERENCES:

## MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



## SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( ) Woodland( ) Scattered Buildings( )  
Moderately Built Up( ) Densely Built Up( )  
Residential( ) Commercial(☒)  
Agricultural( ) Industrial( )  
Roadside Strip Development( )  
Other:

M. Larew

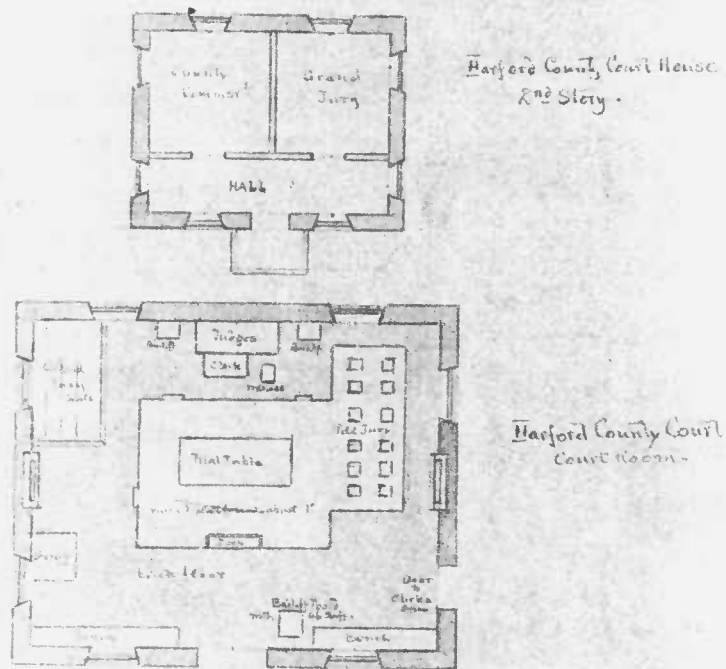
RECORDED BY:

ORGANIZATION:

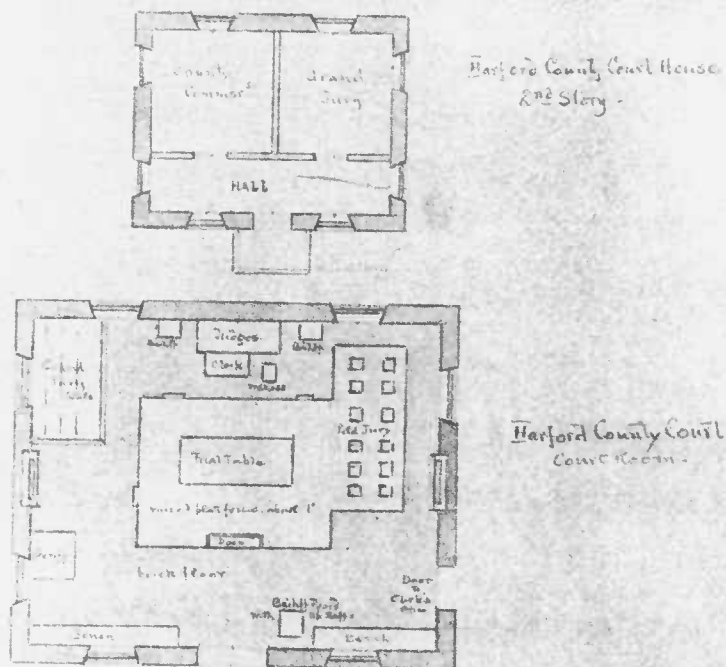
DATE RECORDED:

## PORTRAITS IN THE COURTHOUSE

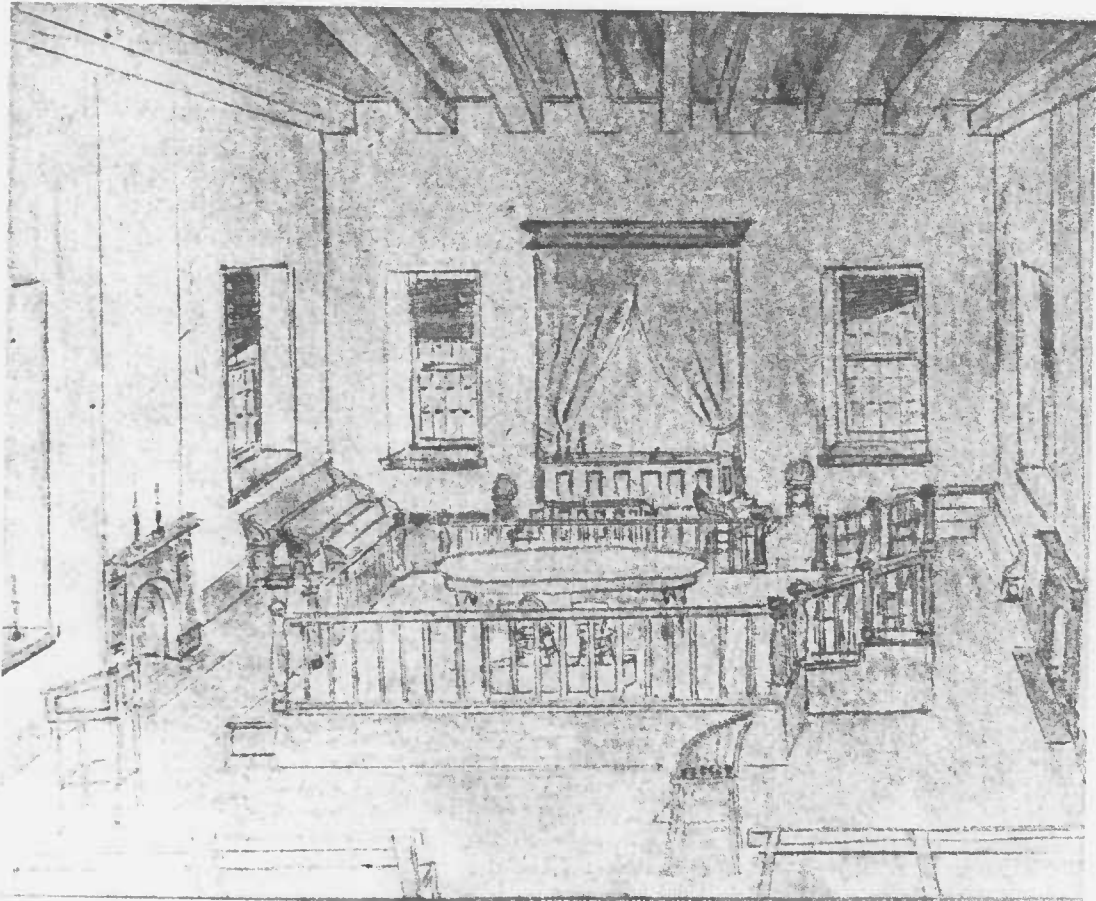
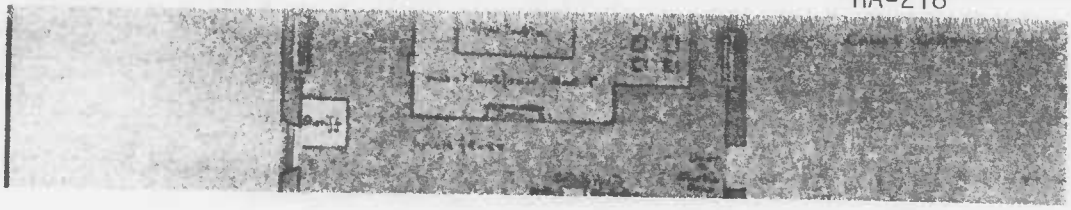
Henry W. Archer b 1813 d 1887  
 General James J. Archer b 1817 d 1864  
 Senator James J. Archer b 1861 d 1921  
 Reverend John Archer b 1741 d 1810  
 Major Robert H. Archer b 1882 d 1948  
 Judge Stevenson Archer b 1786 d 1848  
 Thomas Archer b 1808 d 1870  
 James Lawrence Bartol b 1813 d 1887  
 Judge Alfred W. Bateman b 1824 d 1874  
 Edwin Thomas Booth b 1833 d 1893  
 Augustus Williamson Bradford b 1806  
 Judge Frederick Lee Cobourn b 1885 d 1962  
 Reverend Reuben H. Davis b 1788 d 1835  
 Henry Dorsey Farnandis b 1817 d 1900  
 Dr. John Miller Turpin Finney b 1863 d 1942  
 Harry D. Gough b 1791 d 1867  
 Dr. David Harlan b 1809 d 1893  
 Henry David Harlan b 1858 d 1943  
 Judge William Henry Harlan b 1850 d 1942  
 Thomas A. Hays b 1780 d 1861  
 John Thomas Chew Hopkins b 1843 d 1922  
 Hugh Judge Jewett b 1817 d 1898  
 Samuel Jordan Kirkwood b 1813 d 1894  
 Colonel Otho S. Lee b 1840 d 1918  
 Parker Hall Lee b 1759 d 1829  
 Judge David Paul McNabb b 1895 d 1963  
 Joseph Martin McNabb b 1847 d 1926  
 Judge William P. Maulsby b 1815 d 1894  
 William Paca b 1740 d 1799  
 Dr. Jacob Alexander Preston b 1796 d 1868  
 Mayor James Harry Preston b 1860 d 1938  
 Judge Walter Silkes Preston b 1863  
 Judge John Henry Price b 1808 d 1892  
 John S. Richardson, Sr. b 1830  
 Judge John Andrew Robinson b 1872 d 1957  
 Thomas Hall Robinson b 1860 d 1930  
 Commodore John Rodgers b 1771 d 1838  
 Commodore John Rodgers II b 1812 d 1882  
 Commander John Rodgers b 1881 d 1926  
 Rear Admiral John Augustus Rodgers b 1848 d 1933  
 Colonel Robert Smith Rodgers b 1809 d 1891  
 Colonel Otho Scott b 1797 d 1864  
 Colonel John Streett b 1762 d 1836  
 Herman Stump b 1837 d 1917  
 Senator Millard E. Tydings b 1890 d 1961  
 Judge George L. VanBibber, Jr. b 1845 d 1911  
 Judge James D. Watters b 1834 d 1908  
 Colonel Edwin Hanson Webster d 1829 d 1893  
 Captain John Adams Webster b 1789 d 1877  
 Colonel Thomas White b 1708 d 1779  
 William Young b 1828 d 1892  
 Stevenson A. Williams  
 Mary Risteau  
 Howard S. O'Neill



Floorplan of the Original Harford County Courthouse.  
From a sketch in Judge Close's Office

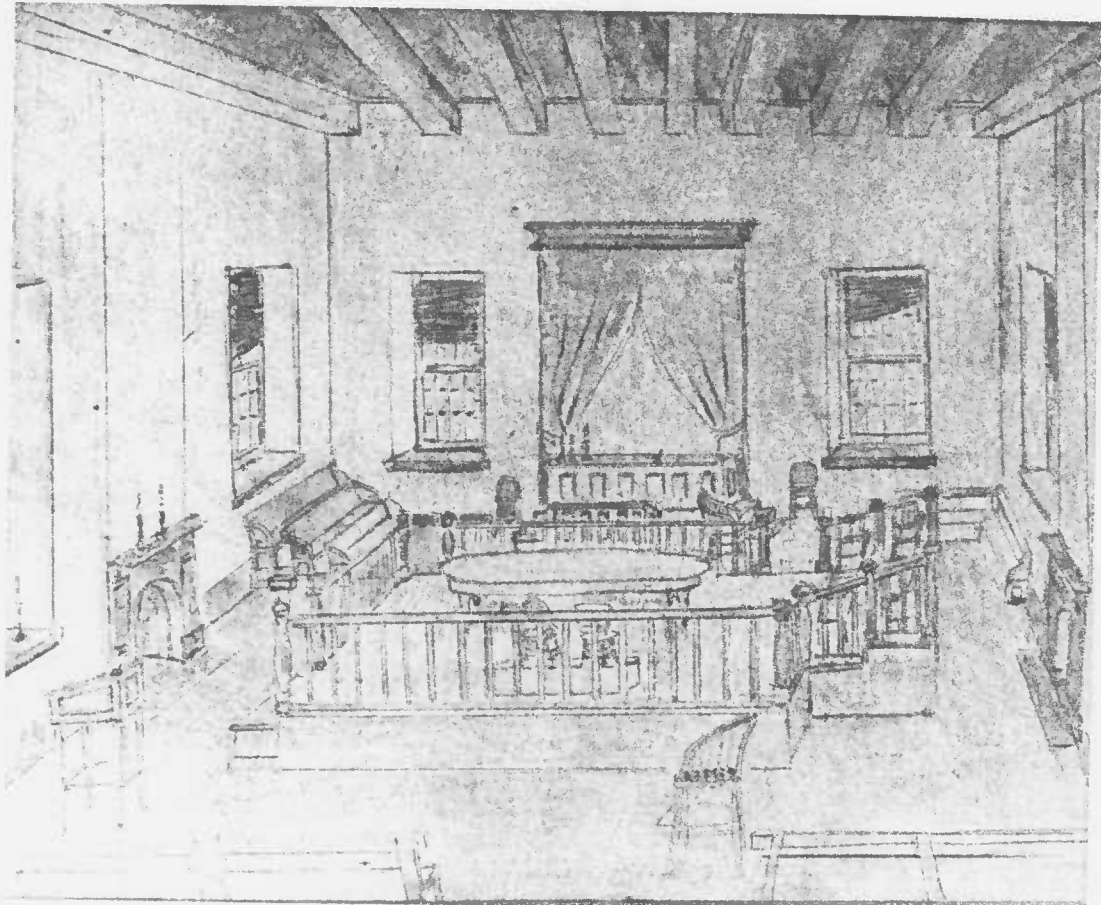


Floorplan of the Original Harford County Courthouse.  
From a sketch in Judge Close's Office



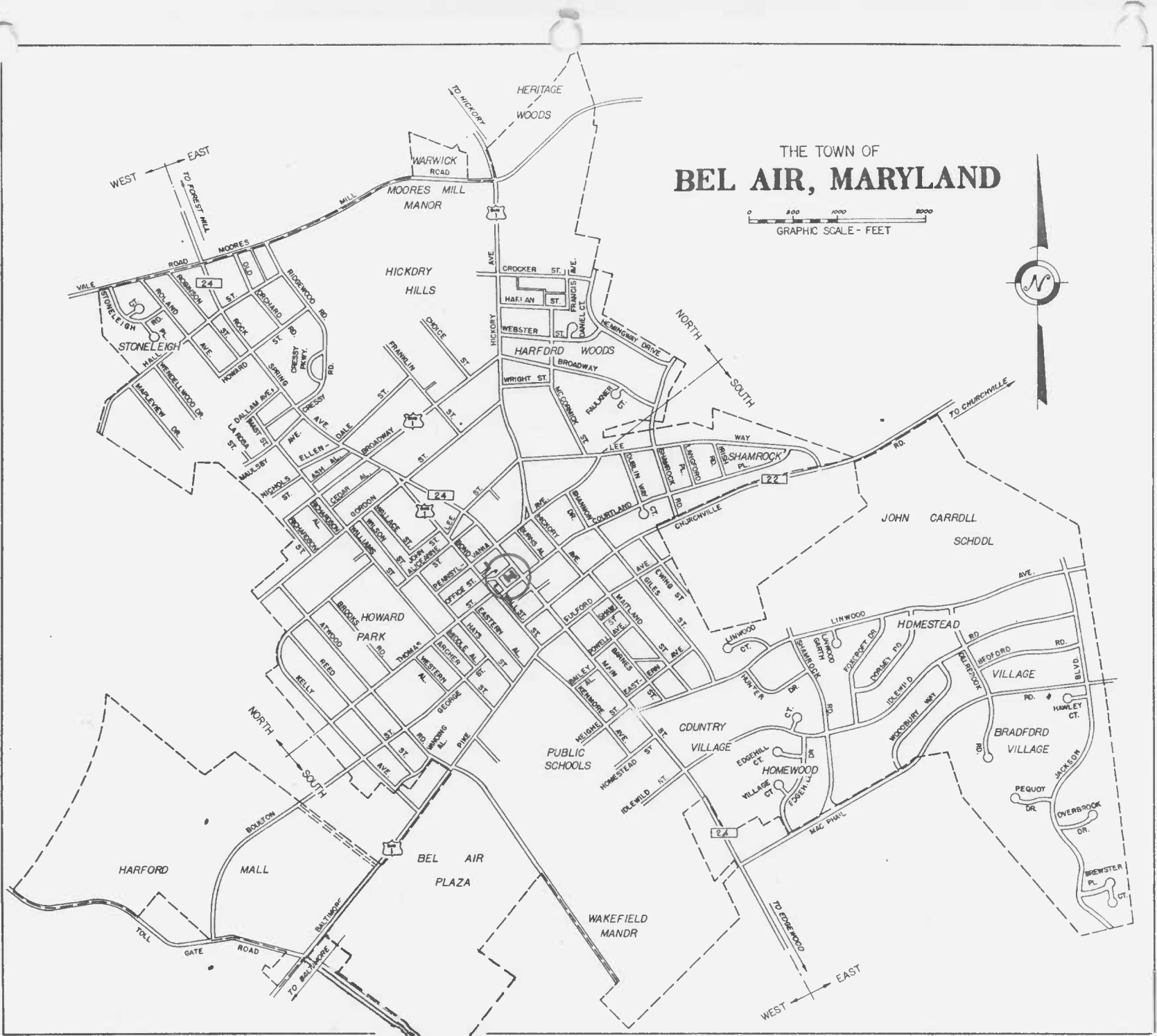
Layout of the Courtroom in the original Harford County Courthouse. From a sketch in Judge Close's Office





Layout of the Courtroom of the original Harford County court house. From a sketch in Judge Close's Office

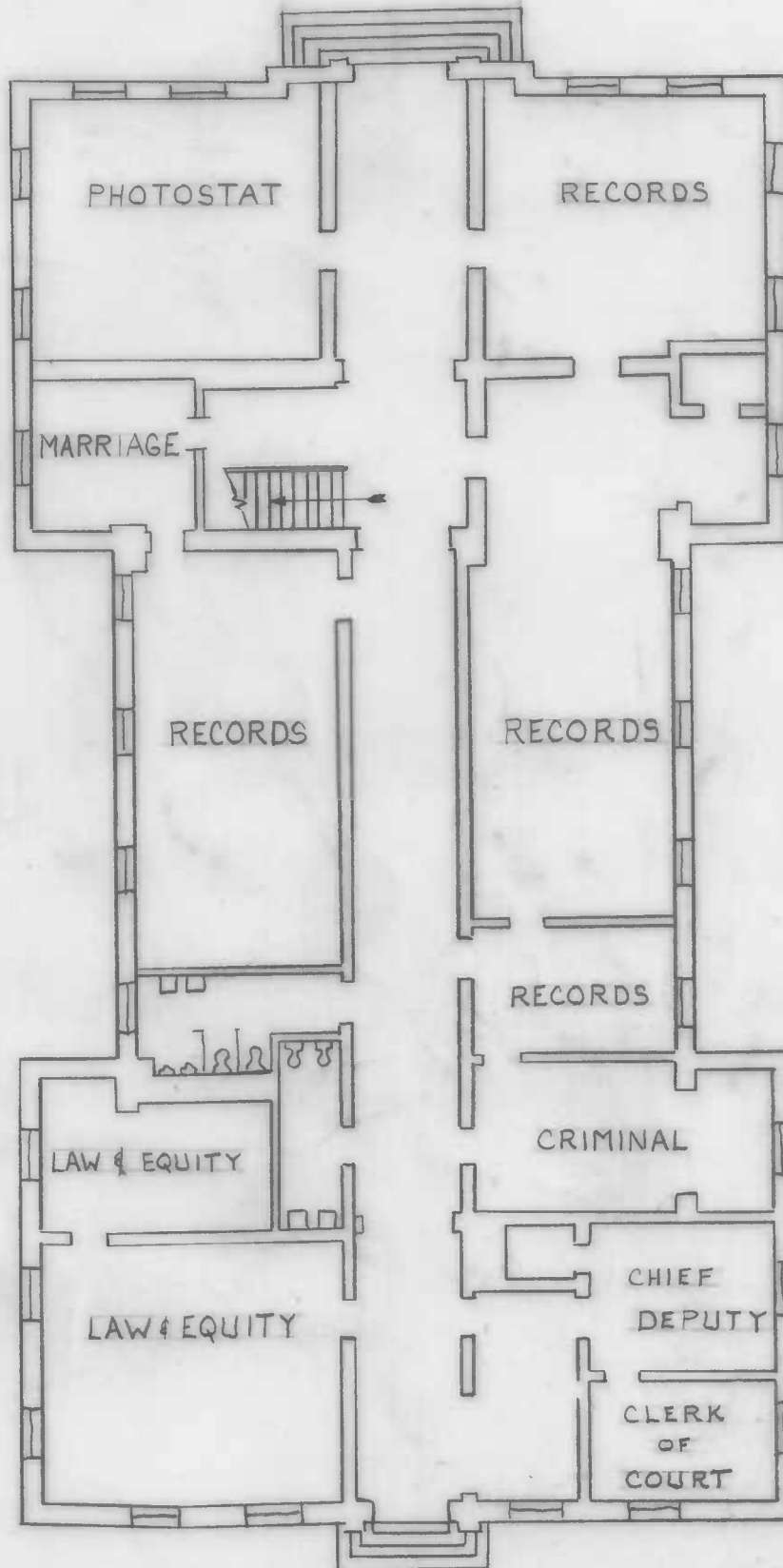




HA-218

Harford County Courthouse  
Main Street

MAIN ST.



DRAWING COURTESY OF  
H. DOUGLAS CHILCOAT  
TRACED BY: G. CUNO

HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
MAIN STREET  
BEL AIR, MARYLAND

4A-218

SCALE: 1 in. = 16 ft.





HARTFORD COUNTY COURT HOUSE, MAIN ST.,  
BEL AIR

FRONT (EAST) ELEVATION

M. LARSEN, 1978

HA-218





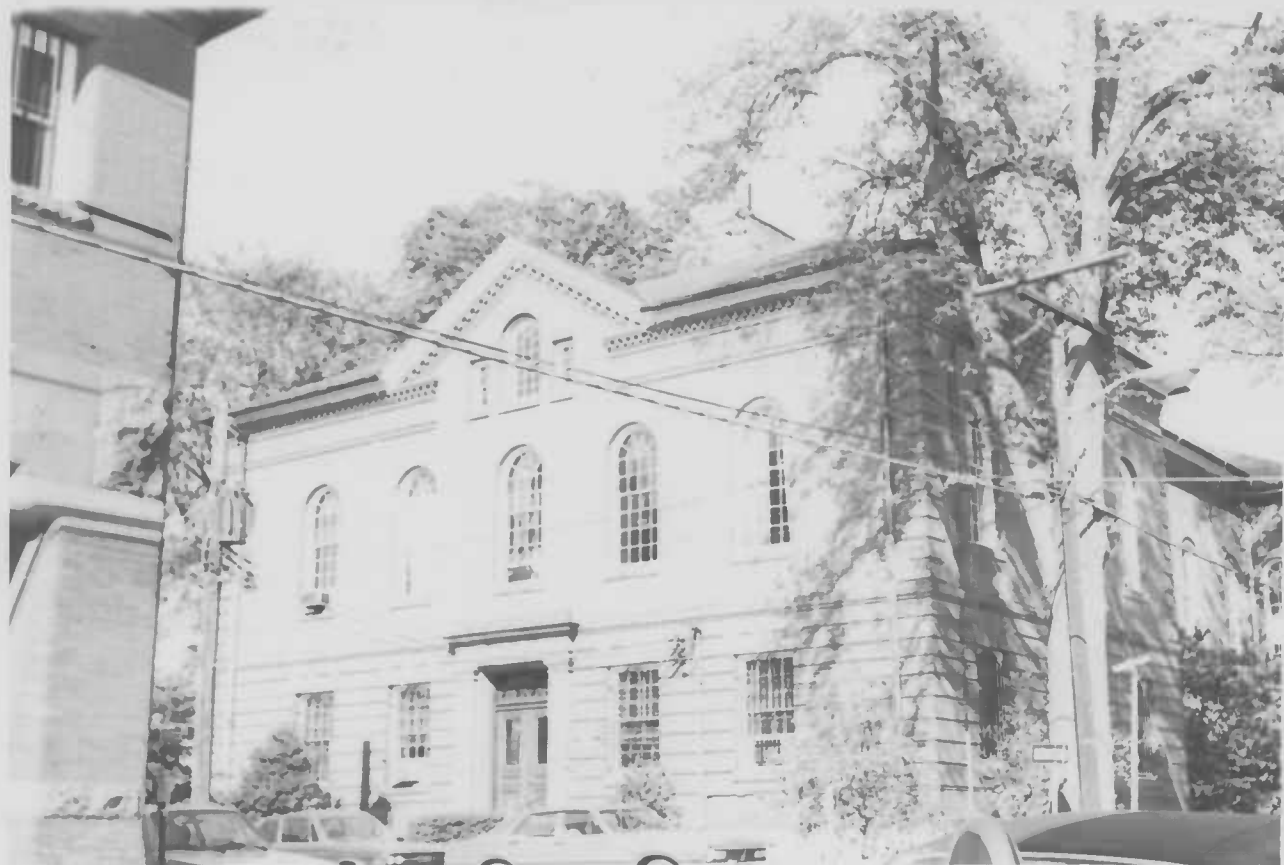












HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BEL AIR

REAR (WEST) ELEVATION

HA-218



DETAIL OF STAIRWAY IN 1905 ADDITION (WEST END)

M. LAREW, 1978

HA-218





HA-218

PUBLISHER REQUESTED  
TO CREDIT PHOTO BY:-

“HOLDEN”

Reprints: Contact 1 - 301 - 838 - 6820



HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BEL AIR  
REAR (WEST) STAIRCASE ON SECOND  
FLOOR

M. LAREW, 1977

HA-21E



A black and white photograph of a hallway with a series of white, rounded arches. On the left wall, a "NO SMOKING" sign is visible. The hallway leads to a darker area in the distance. A small, light-colored cabinet or machine is positioned against the wall on the right side of the hallway. The floor is dark and polished, reflecting some light. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat somber due to the monochrome palette.

NO  
SMOKING

HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BEL AIR

ARCHES IN 1905 ADDITION, SECOND FLOOR

M. LAREW, 1978

HA-217



HARVEST COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BEL AIR  
BALUSTERS, EAST (FRONT) STAIRCASE  
M LAREN, 978

HA-218





HA-218



HA - 218



HA-218



HA-218





HA-218



HA-218



HA-218



HA-218





HA-218



HA-218







HA-218